REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, 18-22 and 24 stand rejected. Claims 5, 11, 17and 23 have been objected to.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 24 have been amended. Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, 17, 22, and 23 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings due to being informal. The Examiner has stated

> Any drawing corrections requested, but not made in prior application should be repeated in this application if such changes are still desired. If the drawings were changed and approved during the prosecution of the prior application, a petition may be filed under 37 CFR 1.182 requesting the transfer of such drawings, provided the parent application has been abandoned. However, a copy of the drawings as originally filed must be included in the 37 CFR 1.60 application papers to indicate the original content.

(p. 2, Office Action 08/03/04)

In response, applicants have included formal drawings with this response. Figure 2 has been amended to reflect prior art.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, 18-22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,712,851 of Nguyen et al. ("Nguyen").

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, 18-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nguyen. The Examiner has stated that

> Referring to Claim 1, Nguyen et al. teaches: A method (FIG1) comprising: Calendering a plurality of virtual connections for processing, each virtual connection calendared to a particular time period such that the virtual connections are not calendared to at least one

time period (The scheduler schedules or calendars by inserting VCID into the TIM SLOT RING per Fig 1 wherein the connections apply to different time periods), Storing a plurality of virtual connection addresses in cache memory (The applicant broadly claims "cache memory". The examiner interprets that the VCIDs being stored into the TIME SLOT RING performs the same function as a cache memory per FIG 1), Processing virtual connection corresponding to one of the plurality of virtual connection addresses during one of the at least one time periods (VCIDs are used to process the VCs via pointers to VC TABLE per Fig 1. Each connection representing a different time period.), Nguyen does not expressly call for: calendaring but teaches scheduling, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that scheduling performs the same function as calendaring.

(p. 2-3, Office Action 08/03/04) Nguyen discloses that

> The VC descriptor 20 is contained in the VC table 14, wherein the VC table is essentially an array of all the VC descriptors. The pending queue 16 is a queue of VCIDs and is used for queuing a new VC. In addition, when the scheduler 10 is unable to find a time slot for a VC, the VC is queued in the pending queue 16.

(Nguyen, Col. 2 Lines 59-64)

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that new claim 1 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103 in view of Nguyen. New claim 1 includes the following limitations.

> A method comprising:
> calendaring a plurality of virtual connections for processing, each virtual connection calendared to a particular time period such that the virtual connections are not calendared to at least one time period;
> storing a plurality of virtual connection addresses in a cache memory;
> processing a virtual connection corresponding to one of the plurality of virtual connection addresses during one of the at least one time periods;
> processing a calendared virtual connection; and
> adding the address of the processed calendared virtual connection to the cache memory upon a determination that the address of the processed calendared virtual connection is not currently in the cache memory, the processed calendared virtual connection has more data to transmit, and a recipient can receive more data.

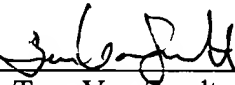(Amended claim 1) (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that Nguyen does not disclose such limitation or render

such limitation obvious. Amended claim 1 includes patentable matter as identified by the

Examiner. For these reasons applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is not rendered

obvious § 103 in view of Nguyen.

Given that claims 7, 13, and 19 contain the limitation of adding the address of the processed calendared virtual connection to the cache memory upon a determination that the address of the processed calendared virtual connection is not currently in the cache memory, the processed calendared virtual connection has more data to transmit, and a recipient can receive more data, applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 13, and 19 are likewise not rendered obvious by Nguyen. Further, given that claims 2, 3, and 6 and claims 8, 9, and 12 and claims 14, 15, and 18 and claims 20, 21 and 24, depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, respectively, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21 and 24 are, likewise not rendered obvious by Nguyen.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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